

VISIT...

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Anne Rice's

QUEEN OF THE DAMNED™



STANLEY 92

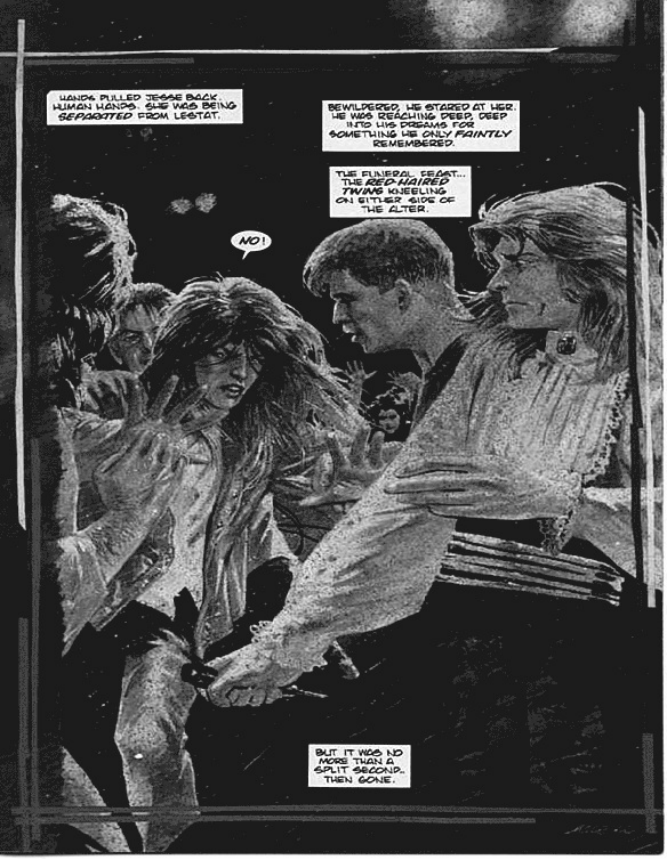
HANDS PULLED JESSE BACK.
HUMAN HANDS. SHE WAS BEING
SEPARATED FROM LESTAT.

BEWILDERED, HE STARED AT HER.
HE WAS REACHING DEEP, DEEP
INTO HIS DREAMS FOR
SOMETHING HE ONLY FAINTLY
REMEMBERED.

THE FUNERAL SEAT...
THE RED-HAIRED
TWINS KNEELING
ON EITHER SIDE OF
THE ALTER.

NO!

BUT IT WAS NO
MORE THAN A
SPLIT SECOND.
THEN GONE.





BEAUTIFUL
JESSE!

THE TASTE OF THE BLOOD WAS
ON THE TIP OF HER TONGUE.

IT SEEMED THAT SHE WAS
GOING TO CRY AGAIN-- AND
THAT IT WAS A PERFECTLY
FINE THING TO DO.



FOR THE MOMENT
THERE WAS NO
PAST OR PRESENT,
NO NECESSITY...

...AND ALL THE WORLD WAS
CHANGED, FROM THE SIMPLEST
THINGS TO THE GRANDEST.



SHE WAS FLOATING, AS IF IN
THE CENTER OF THE MOST
SEDUCTIVE STATE OF
PEACE AND ACCEPTANCE THAT
SHE HAD EVER KNOWN.

OH, IF ONLY SHE COULD TELL
DAVID THESE THINGS...
IF ONLY SHE COULD
SHARE THIS GREAT AND
OVERWHELMING SECRET.



WHAT?

TALAMOSCA?

NOT HUMAN.
ONE OF THEM.

TALAMOSCA?

SHE TRIED
TO SCREAM
AS SHE WAS
LIFTED OFF
HER FEET.



THEN SHE WAS FLYING ACROSS THE LOBBY AND SHE WAS SCREAMING UNTIL HER HEAD BLANNNED INTO THE WALL.

BLACKNESS. SHE
SAW THE PAIN.

IT FLASHED YELLOW AND THEN
WHITE AS IT TRAVELLED DOWN
HER BACKBONE...

...AND THEN SPREAD OUT
AS IF INTO A MILLION
BRANCHES INTO HER LIMBS.

SHE COULDN'T SEE.

MAYBE HER EYES WERE CLOSED,
BUT THE FUNNY THING WAS,
IF THEY WERE, SHE COULDN'T
OPEN THEM.

SHE HEARD VOICES,
PEOPLE SHOUTING.

DON'T
TOUCH HER.
HER NECK IS
BROKEN.

BROKEN? CAN YOU
LIVE WHEN YOUR
NECK IS BROKEN?

CAN'T SEE.
OH, GOD,
CAN'T SEE!



THE AMBULANCE
IS ON ITS WAY. LIE
STILL, HONEY. DON'T
YOU WORRY.



IF YOU
WILL ALON ME
THROUGH PLEASE,
WE ARE HER
FRIENDS.

all hallow's eve part two

based on the novel by anne rice
adapted and edited by faye perovich
painted by o j carmello
lettered by vickie williams
"cannibal" (page 27) by stan rice

SHE LISTENER... THEY WERE SPEEDING THROUGH THE CITY... SHE FELT THEM TURN THE CORNER...

...BUT WHERE WAS HER BODY? SHE COULDN'T FEEL IT.

BROKEN NECK. THAT SURELY MEANT THAT ONE HAD TO BE DEAD.



CAN YOU HEAR ME, HONEY? WE'RE TAKING CARE OF YOU.

YOUR FRIENDS ARE IN THE CAR BEHIND US. DON'T YOU WORRY.



THEY WERE MOVING HER AGAIN.



AND SHE KNEW THAT JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS NUMBNESS, THIS DARKNESS, THERE WAS TERRIBLE PAIN...

...AND IT WAS BEST TO LIE VERY STILL AND TRY NOT TO GO THERE.

YEARS AGO IN A HOSPITAL SHE HAD BEEN A YOUNG GIRL WITH A BROKEN NECK. THE GIRL'S BODY HAD BEEN TIED TO A HUGE ALUMINUM FRAME.



EVERY NOW AND THEN A NURSE WOULD MOVE THE FRAME TO CHANGE THE GIRL'S POSITION.

WILL YOU DO THAT TO ME?





BASTARD, YOU KILLED ME.



I HAVE NO BODY ANYMORE, YET
I'M TRAPPED IN HERE!



I USED TO THINK IT
WOULD BE LIKE THIS.
DEATH. YOU'D BE
TRAPPED IN YOUR
HEAD IN THE GRAVE,
WITH NO EYES TO
SEE AND NO MOUTH
TO SCREAM.

AND YEARS
AND YEARS
WOULD PASS.

OR YOU ROAMED THE
TWILIGHT REALM,
THINKING YOU WERE
ALIVE WHEN YOU
WERE REALLY DEAD.

DEAR GOD, I HAVE TO KNOW
WHEN I'M DEAD. I HAVE TO
KNOW WHEN IT'S BEGUN!

...AND NOW SHE COULD
TASTE IT, THE WARM
FLUID FLOWING INTO
HER MOUTH.

HER LIPS. THERE WAS
THE FAINTEST
SENSATION. SOMETHING
PARTING HER LIPS...

What
is it?

What are
you giving me?
I don't want to
go under.

Sleep,
my beloved.

I don't
want to. I want
to feel it when I
die. I want to
know!

Sleep,
beloved.

SLEEP.



23
J. M. W. T. 1974



IT WAS JUST AS KUDAMIN HAD EXPECTED.
AS SOON AS THE CONCERT HAD ENDED,
SHE STRUCK OUT AT THE FIRST WHO
STRUCK AT LESTAT.

THE FIRST IMMORTAL
ASSASSIN WENT UP
IN FLAMES, AND THEN
ANOTHER.

THEN KUDAMIN SON GABRIELLE,
THE FIEND'S MOTHER, CALLING TO
LOUIS AND LESTAT TO JOIN HER.

AND LOGICALLY ENOUGH,
THE LETHAL FIRE DID
NOT HARM HER.

LESTAT, MEANTIME,
WAS IN A RAGE...

...MADDENED, ROBBED
OF THE BATTLE.





AS THE POROCH FLOWED THROUGH THE
RUSHING YOUNGSTERS, BLOOD DRINKERS
BURST INTO FLAMES EVERYWHERE.

IN A HORRID, SILENT CHORUS,
THEIR CRIES ROSE, THEIR
FRANTIC CRIES, THEIR
FINAL QUESTIONS.



THE SOUND, DANIEL... HEARD
IT AGAIN. IT WAS MOVING
ABOVE THEM.

IT WAS USELESS. THEY COULD
NOT GET TO LEGAT. AND THEY
HAD NO COVER.



THEY RAN TOWARD THE FRONT GATES
OVER YARDS AND YARDS OF ASPHALT...

...AND SUDDENLY THEY WERE
TRAVELLING SO FAST
THAT DANIEL'S FEET
HAD LEFT THE GROUND...



...AND THE WORLD WAS
MOVING BUT A
SMEAR OF COLOR.

7am to
5pm

THE CERE TELEPATHIC NOISE
WAS DEAFENING NOW.

IT SWALLOWED EVERY OTHER
SOUND IN THE WORLD... IT
SWALLOWED EVERY SENSATION.

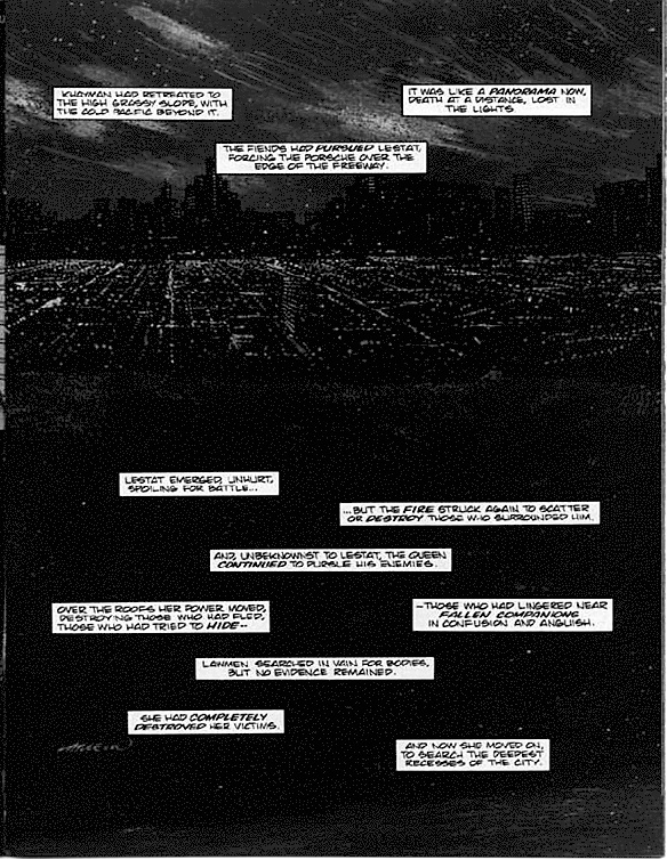
DANIEL KNEW THAT IF IT WERE
MEANT TO HAPPEN, IT WOULD BE
NOW. YET **STILL** HE COULDN'T
FEEL THE FEAR...

...STILL HE COULDN'T
BELIEVE IN HIS **OWN**
DEATH.

AND THEN IT WAS GONE

WILL SHE
COME **BACK**
FOR US?

SHE **KNEW**
WE WERE THERE
SHE **DROPPED** US
OVER



KUDYMAN HAD RETREATED TO
THE HIGH GRASSY SLOPE, WITH
THE COLD PACIFIC BEYOND IT.

IT WAS LIKE A PANDORAMA NOW,
DEATH AT A DISTANCE, LOST IN
THE LIGHTS.

THE FIENDS HAD PURSUED LESTAT,
FORCING THE PORCUE OVER THE
EDGE OF THE FREEWAY.

LESTAT EMERGED UNHURT,
SPOLING FOR BATTLE...

...BUT THE FIRE STRUCK AGAIN TO SCATTER
OR DESTROY THOSE WHO SURROUNDED HIM.

AND, UNBEKNOWNST TO LESTAT, THE QUEEN
CONTINUED TO PURSUE HIS ENEMIES.

OVER THE ROOFS HER POWER MOVED,
DESTROYING THOSE WHO HAD FLED,
THOSE WHO HAD TRIED TO HIDE--

-THOSE WHO HAD LINGERED NEAR
FALLEN COMPANIONS
IN CONFUSION AND ANGUISH.

LANMEN SEARCHED IN VAIN FOR BODIES,
BUT NO EVIDENCE REMAINED.

SHE HAD COMPLETELY
DESTROYED HER VICTIMS.

AND NOW SHE MOVED ON,
TO SEARCH THE DEEPEST
RECESSES OF THE CITY.



SHE CAUGHT AN
ANCIENT ONE
IN THE NORTH
BEACH STREETS--

--SHE BURNED HIM
SLOWLY AS HE
CRAWLED ALONG
THE SIDEWALK.

ANOTHER SHE STRUCK DOWN
UPON A HIGH ELITE ROGE
SO THAT HE FELL LIKE A
SHOOTING STAR.



WHY HAVE I
WITNESSED THESE
THINGS? WHY HAVE THE
DREAMS BROUGHT ME
HERE?

PERHAPS IT WAS PART
OF THE QUEEN'S DESIGN
TO SO SMOOTHLY ADOPT
LEGITIMATE DREAMS--



MARGARET,
WHERE ARE
YOU?

THE NIGHT GAVE
NO ANSWER.

IF ANGEL WAS NEAR, IF
HE HEARD THE CALL, HE
GAVE NO SIGN OF IT.

POOR, DESPERATE ANGEL
WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN
SLAIN NOW, TOO.

IF THIS WAS SO, WOULD SHE
PUNISH THE CREATURE
HIMSELF FINALLY?

NO ANSWER CAME
TO KORYMBAN.



KORYMBAN COULD
NOT FIND HIM.

COLLECTING HIS STRONGEST POWER,
HE SOUGHT TO LEAVE THE
CONFINES OF HIS BODY, TO SEND
HIS VISION OUT OF HIMSELF...

...TO SEE THOSE WHOM THE MOTHER
MIGHT HAVE SPARED, TO DRAW
CLOSE TO THEM.



ARMAND.



ARMAND SAW KHAYMAN!
HE FELT HIM
SILENTLY, INVIBLY, THEY
STUDIED ONE ANOTHER.

IT SEEMED KHAYMAN'S
LONELINESS WAS MORE THAN
HE COULD BEAR,
BUT THE EYES OF
ARMAND HELD NO EMOTION,
NO TRUST, NO WELCOME.

KHAYMAN MOVED ON TO THE NORTH HE WENT,
CALLING THE NAMES SANTINO, PANDORA.

IN A FIELD OF SNOW HE
SAW THEM—PANDORA'S
EYES FULL OF BLOOD
TEARS AS SHE SEARCHED
FOR MARIUS'S COMPOUND.

KHAYMAN VEERED AWAY.
IT HURT HIM TO SEE
THE TWO OF THEM
TOGETHER.



MAEL, ANSWER ME. LET ME
KNOW WHERE YOU ARE.

MAYBE MAEL WAS TOO STRONG FOR
HIM NOW...MAYBE HE CONCEALED
HIMSELF AND HIS CHARGE FROM ALL
EYES AND MINDS.



EITHER THAT, OR THE
QUEEN HAD HAD
HER WAY AND IT WAS
FINISHED.

SO QUIET HERE.

JESSE LAY ON A BED THAT
WAS HARD AND SOFT, AND
HER BODY FELT FLOPPY
LIKE THAT OF A RAG DOLL.

SHE COULD LIFT HER HAND, BUT
THEN IT WOULD DROP. AND SHE
STILL COULD NOT SEE.

IT CAME AGAIN, THE FEAR THAT
SHE WAS DEAD, LOCKED IN THE
FLESH YET DISCONNECTED.

SHE HEARD A CURIOUS SOUND...WHAT
WAS IT? A SCISSORS CUTTING.

IT WAS TRIMMING THE EDGES
OF HER HAIR, THE FEEL OF
IT TRAVELLED TO HER SCALP.

SHE WAS BEING GROOMED FOR
THE COFFIN, WASN'T SHE?

THEN THE PAIN CAME AGAIN,
AN ELECTRIC FLASH
MOVING DOWN HER BACK,
AND SHE SCREAMED.

Why can't
I open my
eyes?

Your
eyes are
open.

I can't give
you anymore unless
I give it all, Jesse.
We are not healers.
We are slayers.

It's time
for you to tell
me what you want.
There is no one
to help me.

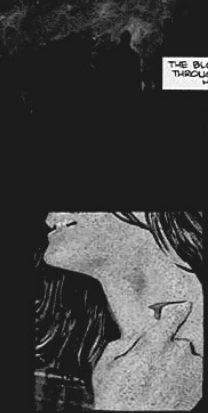
I don't know
what I want. All I
know is I don't
want to die! I
don't want to stop
living!

JESSE?

MUEL,
DO IT!







THE BLOOD CAME. IT POURED
THROUGH EVERY FIBER OF
HER BODY--



--SHE WAS LEGS AND ARMS AGAIN AS
IT ELECTRIFIED HER LIMBS, HER
SKIN STINGING WITH THE HEAT--



--AND THE HUNGER
MAKING HER BODY
WRITHE AS THE
BLOOD SOUGHT TO
ANCHOR HER SOUL TO
SUBSTANCE FOREVER



THEN JESSE FELT THE RAZOR-
SHARP TEETH PIERCE HER SKIN
AGAIN, FELT IT ALL BEING
TAKEN BACK.



LIKE THE WHISTLING WIND,
THE SENSATION OF BEING
EMPTIED, OF BEING DEVoured
OF BEING NOTHING!

DRINK AGAIN,
MY DARLING.



AND AS THE FIRST SPILL OF BLOOD
HIT HER TONGUE, JESSE KNEW
SHE HAD FOUND HER PLACE...

...HER ETERNAL PLACE.



DEAD QUIET, THE PEACE
OF CARMEL VALLEY.

SO HAPPY WAS THE LITTLE
COWEN IN THE HOUSE, LEOLET,
LOUIS, AND GABRIELLE.
SO HAPPY TO BE TOGETHER.

AT ANY OTHER TIME,
LEON ARMED KUDYMAN
WOULD HAVE BEEN BY
SUCH HAPPINESS.

HE WOULD HAVE WANTED TO
TOUCH THEIR HANDS, LOOK
INTO THEIR EYES, TELL
THEM WHO HE WAS AND
WHAT HE HAD SEEN...

...HE WOULD HAVE WANTED
JUST TO BE WITH THEM.

BUT SHE WAS NEAR.
AND THE NIGHT WAS
NOT FINISHED.



GABRIELLE AND LOUIS TOOK THEIR LEAVE.
KHAYMAN WATCHED THEM CROSS THE GRASS--

--THE FEMALE MOVING ON INTO THE
WOODS, WHERE SHE MEANT TO SLEEP
WITHIN THE EARTH ITSELF--

--WHILE THE MALE ENTERED
THE COOL DARKNESS OF A
SMALL OUTBUILDING.

SO FAR SO GOOD.
KHAYMAN DID NOT
WANT THEM TO
DIE, TO BURN UP.



WHY WAS SHE HERE?
AND WHERE WAS SHE
HIDING?



HE FELT THE LOW RADIANT
SOUND OF HER PRESENCE.
RATHER LIKE AN ENGINE
OF THE MODERN WORLD.

FINALLY, LESTAT EMERGED
AND HURRIED TOWARD THE
LAIR HE HAD MADE FOR
HIMSELF BENEATH THE
ACACIA TREES.

SO IT WAS PEACE FOR
THEM ALL. PEACE
UNTIL TONIGHT,
WHEN HE WOULD BE
THE BRINGER OF BAD
TIDINGS.



THE FIRST DEFLECTED RAYS OF THE
SUN APPEARED, AND KHAYMAN MADE
HIS WAY TOWARD THE HOUSE.

TOMORROW NIGHT, WHAT-
EVER ELSE CAME TO PASS,
HE WOULDN'T BE ALONE.



THEN HE HEARD THE SOUND--
A LOUD, CRACKLING ROAR.



DANIEL STIRRED
IN THE DARK.



THE SLEEP SEEMED TO LIFT LIKE
A BLANKET THAT HAD BEEN ABOUT
TO CRUSH HIM, AND HE HEARD
ARMAND WHISPER.

SHE'S
TAKEN HIM.



JESSE MOANED. WEIGHTLESS, SHE
DRIFTED IN THE PEARLY GLOOM.



SHE SAW THE TWO
RISING FIGURES
AS IF IN A
DANCE.



THE
MOTHER...

IN THEIR DEEP-DUG GRAVE BENEATH THE ICE, PANDORA AND GANTINO SLEPT IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS.



PANDORA HEARD THE SOUND. SHE HEARD KHAYMAN'S CRY.



AND HER HEART STOPPED IN TERROR.

MARIUS CLOSED HIS EYES. HE COULD KEEP THEM OPEN NO LONGER.

BEWARE
OF HER. LEAST
DANGER.



ON THE COOL, CARPETED FLOOR, KHAYMAN SLEPT.



AND A DREAM CAME AT ONCE. A SOFT, SILKY DREAM, AND THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER.

...THESE IMMORTALS WHOSE NAMES HE KNEW AND HELD TO HIS HEART NOW.

Hide me
from me.
Fill these
holes with eyes
for mine are not
mine. Hide
me head and need
for I am no good
so dead in life
so much time.
Be wing, and
shade my me
from my desire
to be
hooked fish.
That worm
wine
looks sweet and
makes my me
blind. And, too,
my heart hide
for I shall at
this rate it also
eat in time.



I CAN'T SAY WHEN I AWOKE, WHEN
I FIRST CAME TO MY SENSES.

I REMEMBER KNOWING THAT SHE
AND I HAD BEEN TOGETHER FOR
A LONG TIME, THAT I'D BEEN
FEASTING ON HER BLOOD
WITH AN ANIMAL ABANDON--

--THAT ENKIL WAS DESTROYED AND SHE
ALONE HELD THE PRIMEVAL POWER--

--AND THAT SHE WAS CAUSING ME TO SEE
THINGS AND UNDERSTAND THINGS
THAT MADE ME CRY LIKE A CHILD.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO,
WHEN I'D DRUNK FROM
HER IN THE CUPINE, THE
BLOOD HAD BEEN SILENT,
EERILY AND
MAGNIFICENTLY SILENT.

NOW IT WAS AN UTTER
TRANSPORT OF IMAGES--

--RAVISHING THE BRAIN
JUST AS THE BLOOD ITSELF
RAVISHED THE BODY.

I WAS LEARNING EVERYTHING
THAT HAD HAPPENED, I WAS
THERE AS THE OTHERS,
DIED ONE BY ONE IN THAT
HORRIBLE WAY.

AND THEN THERE WERE THE VOICES,
THE VOICES THAT ROSE AND FELL,
SEEMINGLY WITHOUT PURPOSE, LIKE A
WHISPERING CHOIR IN A CAVE.

YET I WAS IN HER ARMS,
IN THE FAMILIAR SCENT
OF WINTER, AND HER
BLOOD WAS MINE AGAIN.

...AND IT WAS
ENGLAVING ME.

AND WHEN SHE DROVE AWAY,
I FELT AGONY.



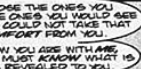


GABRIELLE AND LOUIS ARE SAFE. DO YOU THINK I WOULD HURT THOSE YOU LOVE?



I HAVE SPARED MANY MORE THAN ARE REQUIRED AND THIS I DID FOR YOU AS WELL AS FOR MYSELF--

--THAT I MAY SEE MYSELF REFLECTED IN IMMORTAL EYES, AND HEAR THE VOICES OF MY CHILDREN SPEAKING TO ME.



I CHOSE THE ONES YOU LOVE, THE ONES YOU WOULD SEE AGAIN. I COULD NOT TAKE THAT COMFORT FROM YOU.

BUT NOW YOU ARE WITH ME, AND YOU MUST KNOW WHAT IS BEING REVEALED TO YOU.



IT IS FINISHED. THE CHILDREN OF DARKNESS ARE NO MORE.

AND WE SHALL HAVE ONLY ANGELS NOW.





BUT
THE OTHERS... WHAT
HAPPENED TO
ARMAND ?

COME NOW,
MY PRINCE. IF YOU
MUST SEE IT, I'LL SHOW
YOU THOSE WHO STILL
LIVE --

--THOSE WHOSE
NAMES WILL BECOME
LEGEND
ALONG WITH YOURS
AND MINE.



LEGEND?



A DEAD PERFECT THING.
THE GODDESS, MINE!

THE LAST I FELT
WAS UNSUPPORTABLE.



THE VOICES CAME AGAIN,
YET THEY CRIED BACK AT
MY COMMAND.

AND THEN THERE WAS NOTHING BUT
THE LOW RUSH OF THE BLOOD AND
HER HEART BEATING SLOWLY NEXT
MY OWN.